

February - 23

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024

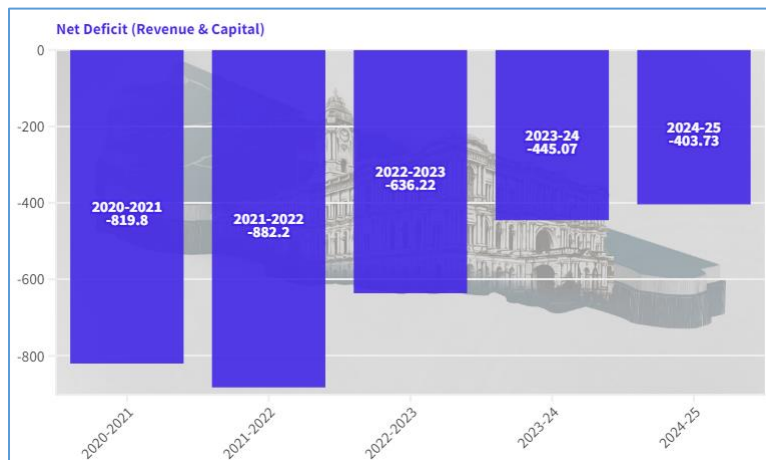


- ❖ Chief Minister unveiled the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Women 2024.
- ❖ It aims to ensure social justice for all and provide women access to their rightful entitlements.
- ❖ It will be enabling them to lead a harmonious and peaceful life with equitable opportunities to realise their true potential and aspirations for a sustainable tomorrow.
- ❖ The policy will be implemented over a period of ten years.
- ❖ The state envisages to raise the status of women through awareness, education, gainful employment and capacity building initiatives.
- ❖ The objective of the policy framework is to
 - Enable access to services such as health, education and employment,
 - Enabling conducive conditions that restructure gender norms and behaviour linked changes,
 - Zero tolerance against any kind of discrimination, abuse and violence against women,
 - Empower them to break gender stereotyping and
 - Enable them to excel in every sector.



- ❖ The policy would improve health and nutrition status of adolescent girls and women, besides increasing their participation in the workplace.
- ❖ By promoting digital literacy to bridge the digital gender gap and support women for remunerative placements, the policy also encourages active participation of women in politics.
- ❖ The policy would cover women-headed households (single women, widows, and deserted women), women from oppressed communities, women engaged in vulnerable occupations, differently-abled women, and women in informal and formal sector.
- ❖ A high-level women empowerment committee headed by the Chief Secretary including all the line department shall meet once in six months to review the implementation of the policy and suggest mid-term course corrections.
- ❖ Similarly, the district level monitoring committee headed by the district collector shall overview the implementation once in two months.
- ❖ The policy shall be reviewed after five years.

Chennai Corporation Budget 2024



- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) presented its budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, with the lowest deficit in five years.
- ❖ Although revenue receipts are at their highest now over the past five years at ₹4,464.60 crore, capital receipts this fiscal are marginally lower, at ₹3,455 crore.
- ❖ The last year's budget estimate was ₹3,554.5 crore.
- ❖ Students studying in classes from LKG to 12 in 419 primary, middle, high school and higher secondary schools in the city will receive two sets of uniforms.
- ❖ Considering the safety of the students, four CCTV cameras each to be installed in 255 schools.

- ❖ For the first time, a pair of shoes and two sets of socks will be provided to 64,022 students of classes LKG to 5 studying in 208 primary and 130 middle schools.
- ❖ Child Protection Committees under the chairmanship of councillors to be set up in all primary, middle schools in the city.
- ❖ A high-risk mother's call centre will be set up in the city.
- ❖ Four buses will be procured by the civic body for the students of corporation schools.
- ❖ An exclusive gym for women, EmpowHER, will be set up at all 200 wards in the city.

NATIONAL

Definition of Forest - Supreme Court

Verdict on woods

Some of the observations made by the SC over the pleas challenging the 2023 amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980



- The “all-encompassing” dictionary meaning will continue to hold field until the States and Union Territories prepare a consolidated record of forest lands
- Environment Ministry should issue a circular in this regard to the States and Union Territories
- Establishment of “zoos or safaris” must have the final approval of the top court

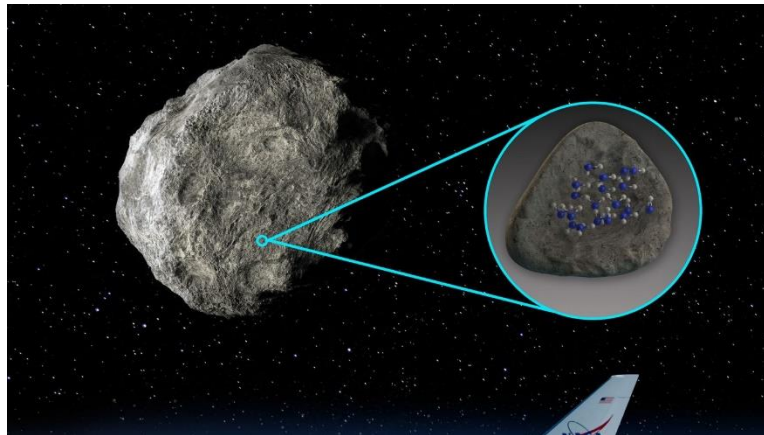
- ❖ The Supreme Court directed that the expression ‘forest’ will continue to have a “broad and all-encompassing” meaning for the time being, and include 1.97 lakh square km of undeclared forest lands.
- ❖ This is held on petitions challenging the amendments introduced in 2023 to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- ❖ Section 1A introduced through the amended Act had “circumscribed or substantially diluted” the definition of forest to two categories — declared forests and lands recorded as forests in ‘government records’ after 1980.
- ❖ The court directed the government for clarity’s sake to revert to the “dictionary meaning” of ‘forest’ as upheld in a 1996 Supreme Court decision in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad case.

- ❖ The term 'forest' had been given a broad meaning by the court then to preserve these green expanses, irrespective of their nature, classification or ownership.
- ❖ It is clarified that the expression 'forest' will cover but not be confined to lands recorded as forests in the government records.
- ❖ The Bench further directed that the establishment of "zoos or safaris" by any government or authority should not be consented to without the final approval of the apex court.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Water on asteroid

- ❖ Researchers for the first time, detected the presence of water molecules on the surface of an asteroid Iris and Massalia.
- ❖ The discovery is based on the analysis of data gathered by Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).
- ❖ Both Iris and Malissa are rich in silicates.
- ❖ Iris (with a diameter of 199 km) and Massalia (with a diameter of 135 km) have similar orbits, travelling an average distance of 2.39 astronomical units (AU)



ENVIRONMENT

Mushroom growing on a frog

- ❖ The Scientists discovered a mushroom growing out of the side of the frog in the foothills of the Western Ghats in India.
- ❖ This is the first time that a mushroom has been observed growing out of a living being.

- ❖ It is discovered on “Rao’s Golden-backed frogs” in a rainwater-fed pond in the foothills of the Kudremukha ranges at Mala, Karkala, in Karnataka.
- ❖ The mushroom identified as the Bonnet mushroom, which usually grows on dead and rotting wood.
- ❖ There are also some that are parasitic and can cause infections like mucormycosis, more commonly known as “black fungus”.



STATES

Chandigarh Mayor Election

Results 'patently illegal', says top court

A look at how SC held that the results of Chandigarh mayoral polls were illegal

The election process

'Defacement' of ballots: The bench physically inspected the ballots and found that barring the writing on it made by the presiding officer (Anil Masih), votes were in favour of the AAP candidate

Plea to conduct poll again: Solicitor general representing Chandigarh admin and advocate for the BJP candidate suggested fresh elections, but SC rejected this



Votes counted afresh: Instead, the top court opted to count the votes and added the 8 “nulled” votes to the tally of 12 votes secured by AAP's Kuldeep Kumar.

20 for AAP **TO** **16** for BJP
The final vote tally according to the SC

"We come to the conclusion that the result declared by presiding officer is patently illegal and is set aside," SC said.

ON PRESIDING OFFICER

The court blasted Anil Masih and ordered proceedings be initiated against him for “deliberately defacing” ballots and then making false statements. “By his conduct he has unlawfully altered course of mayoral election. And in making a solemn statement on Monday, the presiding officer has expressed patent falsehood for which he needs to be held accountable,” the bench said.



- ❖ The Supreme Court has quashed the result of the election for the Mayor of Chandigarh.
- ❖ It is finding that presiding officer Anil Masih had deliberately invalidated eight ballots cast.

- ❖ The court used its power under Article 142 of the Constitution to do “complete justice” and protect the sanctity of electoral democracy.
- ❖ Although the corporation has a five-year term, the mayor is elected for only one year.
- ❖ The post is reserved for a woman candidate in the first and fourth year of each corporation.
- ❖ The last election to the corporation was held in 2021.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Pangolin Day 2024 - February 17

- ❖ The day serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about this lesser-known endangered and one of the world’s most trafficked mammal.
- ❖ Nearly 6,000 pangolins were poached in India between 2009 and 2017.
- ❖ In India, two of the nine pangolin species are found - the Indian pangolin (endangered) and the Chinese pangolin (critically endangered).



Global Tourism Resilience Day 2024 - February 17

- ❖ The day was designated by the United Nations in 2023.
- ❖ It aims to highlight the need for tourism development to be more resilient to shocks and emergencies.



- ❖ The initiative focuses on bolstering the tourism sector against various challenges, supporting sustainable development, and promoting economic stability, particularly in developing nations.



World Whale Day 2024 - February 18



- ❖ This day observed annually on the third Sunday of February.
- ❖ It serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness about the threats faced by whale species.
- ❖ This day originated in 1980 through the efforts of Greg Kauffman and the Pacific Whale Foundation.



- ❖ India's Arabian Sea coast has become a notable habitat for blue whales, the planet's largest beings.
- ❖ Killer whales, also known as orcas, belong to the dolphin family and serve as the ocean's top predators.

